



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter Upgrades Ensure Reliability during Tropical Weather

NOAA technicians from the Tampa Bay National Weather Service office recently completed upgrades to the Riverview, Fla., NOAA Weather Radio transmitter to better insure continued operation during severe weather.

Tampa Bay technicians have been installing new hardware for west-central Florida NOAA Weather Radio transmitters, according to warning coordination meteorologist Dan Noah. He said crews recently installed a new antenna, new cables, a new back-up power source and a new state-of-the-art transmitter. The upgrades will improve the transmitter's ability to broadcast during severe thunder storms and hurricane landfalls.

"During an emergency, information is your greatest asset," Noah said. "When the power is out, NOAA Weather Radio is an excellent source of critical weather information. It allows people to make informed decisions when protecting themselves and their families."

Part of a NOAA damage assessment team sent to Houston after Hurricane Ike made landfall in Texas, Noah said many residents credited NOAA Weather Radio with keeping them informed of worsening conditions. Houston resident Brett Chynoweth told Noah: "The best things in my safety kit were batteries and my trusty NOAA Weather Radio (receiver). Without it, I wouldn't have known what was going on."

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts originate in the forecast areas of local National Weather Service offices, providing weather forecasts and severe weather and flood warnings 24-hours a day. NOAA Weather Radio receivers are widely available at electronics and discount stores.

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On the Web:

NOAA Weather Radio: <http://www.weather.gov/nwr>

Tampa Bay National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov/tampa>

